Amendments to the Claims/Claims Listing

Claims 1-38 (canceled)

39. (currently amended) A method comprising

a) placing said biological sample into a separation container, said separation container comprising a focusing device and a first set of ~~plurality of positive~~ selection microbeads and a second set of ~~plurality of negative~~ selection microbeads, said ~~plurality of positive~~ first set of selection microbeads possessing a binding agent ~~being~~ capable of specifically binding desired components within said sample, said ~~negative~~ second set of selection microbeads possessing a binding agent different from said binding agent of said first set of selection microbeads and ~~being~~ capable of specifically binding undesired components within said sample, said focusing device having a specific density and being capable of elongating layers of said sample components upon centrifugation and being capable of vertical movement within said separation container upon centrifugation;

b) centrifuging said separation container containing said biological sample to densitometrically separate components of said sample into layers, wherein a target layer comprising said ~~positive~~ first set of selection microbeads and said desired components is located within said focusing device such that said target layer is elongated after centrifugation, and wherein said ~~negative~~ second set of selection microbeads and said undesired components of said sample are substantially absent said focusing device after centrifugation; and

c) aspirating said elongated target layer to remove said desired components from said separation container.

40. (currently amended) The method of claim 39, further comprising mixing said sample with said ~~positive~~ first set of selection microbeads and ~~negative~~ said second set of selection microbeads prior to centrifugation.

41. (previously presented) The method of claim 40, wherein said separation container is a cylindrical, closed-end tube with an inner surface, and said focusing device having an outer surface that complements said inner surface of said tube.

42. (previously presented) The method of claim 41, wherein said biological sample is blood.

43. (previously presented) The method of claim 42, wherein said focusing device comprises a single bore axial passage.

44. (currently amended) The method of claim 43, wherein said ~~positive~~ selection ~~beads~~ microbeads of said first set have a density of between about 1.00 g/cc and about 1.06 g/cc.

45. (currently amended) The method of claim 44, wherein said ~~negative~~ selection ~~beads~~ microbeads of said second set have a density selected from the group consisting of greater than about 1.06 g/cc, less than about 1.00 g/cc and combinations thereof.

46. (currently amended) The method of claim 45, wherein said ~~negative~~ selection ~~density beads~~ microbeads of said second set have a density of greater than about 1.06 g/cc.

47. (currently amended) The method of claim 46, wherein said ~~positive~~ first set of selection microbeads and ~~negative~~ second set of selection microbeads each comprise at least one antibody.

48. (currently amended) The method of claim 47, wherein said antibody of said ~~negative~~ second set of selection microbeads binds to the surface of normal white blood cells.

49. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~46~~48, wherein said antibody of said ~~positive~~ first set of selection microbeads binds to the surface of cells other than said normal white blood cells.

50. (currently amended) The method of claim 49, wherein said cells other than normal white blood cells are selected from the group consisting of cancer cells and fetal cells.

51. (previously presented) The method of claim 40, wherein said container is a rectangular, closed end container with an inner surface, said focusing device having an outer surface that complements said inner surface of said rectangular container.

52. (previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein said focusing device is ribbed such that one or more axial passages exist in said focusing device.

53. (previously presented) The method of claim 52, wherein said biological sample is blood.

54. (currently amended) The method of claim 53, wherein said ~~positive~~ selection ~~beads~~ microbeads of said first set have a density of between about 1.00 g/cc and about 1.06 g/cc.

55. (currently amended) The method of claim 54, wherein said ~~negative~~ selection ~~beads~~ microbeads of said second set have a density selected from the group consisting of greater than about 1.06 g/cc, less than about 1.00 g/cc and combinations thereof.

56. (currently amended) The method of claim 55, wherein said ~~negative~~ selection ~~density beads~~ microbeads of said second set have a density of greater than about 1.06 g/cc.

57. (New) The method of claim 56, wherein said first set of selection microbeads and second set of selection microbeads each comprise at least one antibody.

58. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein said antibody of said second set of selection microbeads binds to the surface of normal white blood cells.

59. (New) The method of claim 58, wherein said antibody of said first set of selection microbeads binds to the surface of cells other than said normal white blood cells.

60. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein said cells other then normal white blood cells are selected from the group consisting of cancer cells, and fetal cells.